

1. System for remotely determining the position of a selected category of items of interest in a selected geographic vicinity from a database, the system comprising

(A) a database for storing information about a plurality of items of interest, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographical position and at least one associated category,

(B) a communications link for communicating between a user of the system and the database,

(C) an information controller for transmitting a portion of the information in the database to the user via the link upon receipt of a request signal representative of a selected category and geographic vicinity, the transmitted portion of the information including identification of geographic position for at least one of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity, and

(D) a port for remotely accessing the portion of information via the link, the port generating the request signal in response to inputs by the user which are representative of the selected category and geographic vicinity, the port having a user interface for accepting the inputs and for indicating to the user the position at least one of the items of interest in the selected category and geographic vicinity.

2. System according to claim 1, wherein the link comprises a telephone link.

3. System according to claim 1, wherein the link comprises a satellite link.

4. System according to claim 1, wherein the link comprises a radio-frequency link.

5. System according to claim 1, wherein the link comprises an infra-red link.

6. System according to claim 1, wherein the link comprises an Internet link.
7. System according to claim 1, wherein the database is selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, mainframe, work-station, mini-computer, and a digital data processor.
8. System according to claim 1, wherein the port comprises a phone.
9. System of claim 8, wherein the communications link comprises a cellular communications link.
10. System of claim 1, wherein the port comprises an audible speaker.
11. System of claim 1, wherein the port comprises a personal computer.
12. System of claim 11, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.
13. System according to claim 1, wherein the geographic vicinity comprises spatial detail of the items of interest.
14. System according to claim 1, wherein the geographic vicinity comprises a map of the items of interest in the selected category and geographic vicinity.
15. System according to claim 1, wherein the port interprets the inputs by the user and formulates the inputs into the request signal.
16. System according to claim 1, wherein the database interprets certain of the inputs at the port as items of interest and for transposing such inputs into a selected category automatically.
17. System of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ports, each of the plurality of ports having a user interface for accessing at least part of the information from the database in response to user inputs at the user interface.

18. System according to claim 1, wherein the portion of information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest.
19. System according to claim 18, wherein the additional detail comprises video.
20. System of claim 19, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.
21. System of claim 19, wherein the communications link comprises cellular communications.
22. System according to claim 18, wherein the additional detail comprises prerecorded music.
23. System of claim 22, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.
24. System of claim 22, wherein the communications link comprises cellular communications.
25. System according to claim 18, wherein the additional detail comprises digital pictures.
26. System of claim 25, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.
27. System of claim 25, wherein the communications link comprises cellular communications.
28. System according to claim 18, wherein the additional detail comprises an advertisement.
29. System of claim 28, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.
30. System of claim 28, wherein the communications link comprises cellular communications.

31. System according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at least one of the items of interest.

32. System according to claim 1, wherein the information comprises a plurality of geographic vicinities, the port hierarchically selecting any of the vicinities via the user interface.

33. Database for storing information about a plurality of items of interest, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographic position and at least one associated category, comprising

(A) a communications link for communicating between the database and a plurality of remote ports, and

(B) an information controller for transmitting a portion of the information to at least one of the ports via the link upon receipt of a request signal representative of a selected category and geographic vicinity, the transmitted portion of the information including identification of a position for at least one of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity.

34. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises a telephone link.

35. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises a satellite link.

36. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises a radio-frequency link.

37. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises an infra-red link.

38. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises an Internet link.

39. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises a coaxial cable link.

40. Database according to claim 33, wherein the link comprises a television link.
41. Database according to claim 33, further comprising at least one port for generating the request signal in response to user inputs, the port being selected from the group of phones and computers.
42. Database according to claim 33, wherein the identification at least one of the items of interest comprises spatial detail of the one item of interest.
43. Database according to claim 33, wherein the portion of information comprises a map of the items of interest in the selected category and geographic vicinity.
44. Database according to claim 33, wherein the information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest.
45. Database according to claim 33, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at least one of the items of interest.
46. Database according to claim 33, wherein the information comprises a plurality of geographic vicinities, a user at any of the remote ports hierarchically accessing the vicinities through user inputs at the remote port.
47. Remote access port for remotely accessing a selected category of items of interest in a selected geographic vicinity from a remote database, the database being of the type which stores information about a plurality of items of interest, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographical location and at least one associated category, the remote access port generating a request signal representative of a selected category and a selected geographic vicinity of the items of interest in response to inputs by the user, the remote access port having a user interface for accepting the inputs and for indicating to the user the position of at least one of the items of interest within the selected category and geographic vicinity.

48. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises a television.

49. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises a telephone.

50. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises a facsimile.

51. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises an audible speaker.

52. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises a personal computer.

53. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the user interface comprises a phone connected to the database via a communications link, the link comprising a cellular communications link.

54. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the port interprets certain of the inputs as items of interest and transposes such inputs into a selected category automatically.

55. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the information comprises additional detail for at least one of the items of interest.

56. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the information comprises an advertisement associated with at least one of the items of interest.

57. Remote access port according to claim 47, wherein the information comprises a plurality of geographic vicinities, a user at the port hierarchically selecting any of the vicinities via user

inputs.

58. A method for remotely determining the position of each of a selected category of items of interest in a selected geographic vicinity from a database, comprising the steps of: (i) storing information about a plurality of items of interest in the database, the information including, for each of the items of interest, a geographic location and at least one associated category; (ii) accessing the database from a remote port and over a communication link; (iii) communicating, from the remote port, information representative of a selected category and a selected geographic vicinity to the database; and (iv) transmitting a portion of the information from the database and to the user over the link, the information including, at least, identification of the position for one or more of the items of interest within the selected geographic vicinity.

59. A method according to claim 58, wherein the steps of communicating further comprises communicating over a cellular communications link.

60. A method according to claim 59, wherein the step of accessing comprises accessing the database through a phone.

61. A method according to claim 58, wherein the step of communicating further comprises communicating over the Internet.

62. A method according to claim 58, wherein the step of transmitting a portion of the information further comprises the step of communicating over a cellular communications link.

63. A method according to claim 58, wherein the step of transmitting a portion of the information further comprises the step of communicating over the Internet.